



How can transitions help me organize my writing?

Linking words and phrases (transitions) can help you organize the details in your narratives, descriptions, and essays. (Also see pages 634–635.)

Descriptions: You can use the following transitions, which show location, to arrange details in your descriptions.

above across below in the front on the right near in the back

In the front of the snack shop is a small counter surrounded by rows of candy bars. Across from the counter, bags of pretzels and popcorn are neatly stacked. In the back of the shop, a cooler contains sports drinks and water . . .

Personal narratives: You can use the following transitions, which show time, to arrange details in your narratives. These types of transitions also work well for “how-to” or procedure essays.

after before during first second today next then

Next I got my favorite player's autograph. It was so amazing. I was speechless. Then I watched for other players to arrive just for the fun of it. . . .

Comparison-contrast essays: You can use the following transitions to organize comparisons.

(when comparing)	like	also	both	in the same way	similarly
(when contrasting)	but	still	yet	on the other hand	unlike

Both red blood cells and white blood cells play important roles. Red blood cells transport oxygen throughout your body, and white blood cells protect your body against infection. Unlike red blood cells, most white blood cells live only a few days.

Persuasive essays: You can use the following transitions to organize the details in your persuasive essays.

first of all in addition equally as important most importantly

First of all, carrying out the death penalty is a very slow process. . . . In addition, capital punishment is very expensive. . . . Most importantly, many people believe that capital punishment is morally wrong. . . .



Review a narrative, a description, or an essay that you have written. Underline any transitions that you find. Do they organize your writing, making it easier to follow? Could you add any more transitions?



How can I connect my sentences and paragraphs?

Use Transitions

Transitions can be used to connect one sentence to another sentence or one paragraph to another within a longer essay or report. The lists below show a number of transitions and how they are used.

Note: Each colored list below is a group of transitions that could work well together in a piece of writing.

Words that can be used to show location

above	around	between	inside	outside
across	behind	by	into	over
against	below	down	near	throughout
along	beneath	in back of	next to	to the right
among	beside	in front of	on top of	under

Above	In front of	On top of
Below	Beside	Next to
To the left	In back of	Beneath
To the right		

Words that can be used to show time

about	during	yesterday	until	finally
after	first	meanwhile	next	then
at	second	today	soon	as soon as
before	to begin	tomorrow	later	in the end

First	To begin	Now	First	Before
Second	To continue	Soon	Then	During
Third	To conclude	Later	Next	After
Finally			In the end	

Words that can be used to compare two things

likewise	as	in the same way	one way
like	also	similarly	both

In the same way	One way
Also	Another way
Similarly	Both

Words that can be used to show location

but
however

.....
On the other hand
Even though
Still

Words that can be used to show time

again
to repeat

.....
Furthermore
Eventually
In the end

Words that can be used to compare two things

finally
lastly

.....
Then
Besides
In addition

Words that can be used to show location

again
also
as well

.....
Furthermore
Additionally
Finally

Words that can be used to compare two things

in addition
moreover

.....
Furthermore
Additionally
In addition

Words that can be used to contrast things (show differences)

but	still	although	on the other hand
however	yet	otherwise	even though

On the other hand	Although
Even though	Yet
Still	Nevertheless

Words that can be used to emphasize a point

again	truly	especially	for this reason
to repeat	in fact	to emphasize	

For this reason	Truly
Especially	To emphasize
In fact	To repeat

Words that can be used to conclude or summarize

finally	as a result	to sum up	in conclusion
lastly	therefore	all in all	because

Therefore	As a result	To sum it up
Because	All in all	Because
In conclusion	Finally	Finally

Words that can be used to add information

again	another	for instance	for example
also	and	moreover	additionally
as well	besides	along with	other
	next	finally	in addition

For example	For instance	Next	Another
Additionally	Besides	Moreover	Along with
Finally	Next	Also	As well

Words that can be used to clarify

in other words	for instance	that is	for example
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For instance	For example
In other words	Equally important